

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

EA:RHOLBROOKE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 041182

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 3

TAGS:LA, US, PFOR, OVIP, PSDC

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO LAO FOREIGN MINISTER
PROPOSING VISIT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO LPDR

REF: 1. STATE 28546; 2. STATE 40019

1. SRV HAS NOW AGREED TO RECEIVE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL
COMMISSION DESCRIBED REF 2. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT
COMMISSION, WHICH WILL VISIT HANOI IN THE NEAR FUTURE,
SHOULD ALSO VISIT VIENTIANE IF LPDR WILL RECEIVE IT. PRI-
MARY OBJECTIVE OF COMMISSION'S VISIT TO VIENTIANE WOULD BE
TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON AMERICANS MISSING IN LAOS.
COMMISSION, HEADED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT,
WILL ALSO BE INSTRUCTED TO RECEIVE VIEWS OF LAO AUTHORITIES

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ON OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO U.S. AND LPDR AND TO
REPORT THESE VIEWS PERSONALLY TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER TO MFA IMMEDIATELY TEXT OF FOLLOW-
ING LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH:

BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO ASK YOUR GOVERNMENT TO RECEIVE A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION COMPOSED OF SEVERAL DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS TO VISIT VIENTIANE. THE COMMISSION, WHICH WOULD BE LED BY THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, WOULD HAVE AS ITS MISSION TO SEEK INFORMATION FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE FATE OF AMERICANS MISSING OR KILLED IN LAOS AND WOULD HOPE TO OBTAIN REMAINS OF OUR DEAD.

THE COMMISSION WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE YOUR GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND TO REPORT THESE VIEWS PERSONALLY TO THE PRESIDENT.

AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED A GREAT PERSONAL INTEREST IN SENDING SUCH A COMMISSION TO YOUR COUNTRY. YOUR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THIS GROUP AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH INFORMATION ON OUR MISSING MEN WOULD BE A WELCOME STEP TOWARD IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH I FIRMLY BELIEVE IS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH.

I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING AN EARLY RESPONSE FROM YOU ON THIS MATTER

SINCERELY,
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CYRUS VANCE. END TEXT.

3. IN DELIVERING LETTER, EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE, SHOULD INDICATE THAT COMMISSION WOULD PROBABLY CONSIST OF FOUR OR FIVE MEMBERS PLUS A SMALL SUPPORTING STAFF, AND WOULD EXPECT TO STAY ONE OR TWO DAYS.

4. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD INDICATE THAT SIMILAR INITIATIVE HAS BEEN TAKEN WITH SRV, WHICH HAS AGREED TO THE VISIT, AND THAT PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION WISHES TO VISIT VIENTIANE AS WELL IN THE COURSE OF ITS TRAVELS. DISCUSSION OF FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD AWAIT LPDR REPLY.

5. RE PRESS HANDLING, WE PLAN TO ANNOUNCE COMMISSION'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO HANOI FEBRUARY 24TH OR 25TH. WE WILL INDICATE IN ANSWER TO ANY QUESTIONS ON LAOS THAT WE ARE ALSO PROPOSING COMMISSION VISIT VIENTIANE AND WE ARE

APPROACHING LPDR ON THIS MATTER.

6. THE ABOVE SUPERSEDES ORAL PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED REF
2, WHICH IS NO LONGER NECESSARY IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY
DELIVERED IT.

VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, MIA, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, COMMISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE041182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JRJOHNSON/FMLC
Enclosure: DG ALSO X1
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P900105-0843, P850070-2785, P800033-1154
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770213/aaaaaldn.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a5fc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 285446, 77 STATE 40019, 77 STATE 28546
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3239794
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO LAO FOREIGN MINISTER PROPOSING VISIT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO LPDR
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PSDC, PDIP, LA, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (PHOUN SIPASEUT), (VISITS)
To: VIENTIANE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a5fc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009